



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Fred Sainz
858-442-8914

Kevin Smith
619-533-6469

Sanders and Frye Call on U.S. Department of Transportation to Close Tank Farm Near Qualcomm Stadium During Special Events

San Diego – In light of the accident that occurred yesterday right in front of Qualcomm Stadium involving a double tanker truck spilling 4,000 gallons of fuel, Mayor Jerry Sanders and Councilmember Donna Frye have written to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and asked him to close the tank farm down during major special events such as football games. The U.S. D.O.T. regulates the farm. “I believe that this decision would be in the best interest and welfare of our public here in San Diego,” said Sanders and Frye.

Sanders and Frye asked the Secretary to refer the matter to an appropriate departmental representative with whom San Diego representatives can discuss the matter.

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Letter to Norman Y. Mineta follows



JERRY SANDERS
MAYOR

December 8, 2005

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Closure of Gasoline Tank Farm near Qualcomm Stadium during Special Events

Dear Secretary Mineta:

The U.S. Department of Transportation regulates the operations of a gasoline tank farm located near San Diego's largest special events venue, Qualcomm Stadium. Most of the tanker traffic must make a U-turn directly in front of the stadium to access the farm. At present, that farm operates during special events held at the stadium. Yesterday, a double tanker, containing 4,000 gallons of fuel, tipped over and exploded right in front of the stadium.

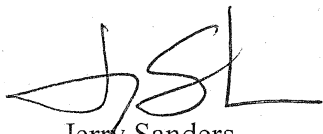
Luckily, the event happened at 10:00am when there was minimal traffic. There was no loss of life, serious injuries or significant property damage. But as you can appreciate, the potential for a disastrous situation exists if such an accident were to happen during a major event at the stadium, when 70,000 people would be arriving.

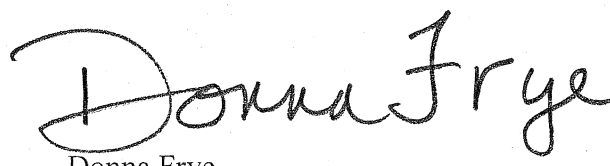
U.S. D.O.T. closed the tank farm down most recently during the 2003 Super Bowl held at Qualcomm. We think that it's time that you revisit this policy. We ask that you lend the considerable weight of your office and close the tank farm down during all major special events held at the stadium. We believe that this decision would be in the best interest and welfare of our public here in San Diego.

We would welcome discussions on this matter with an appropriate representative from the department. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,


Jerry Sanders
Mayor


Donna Frye
Councilmember

Cc: Honorable Members of the City Council
Fire Chief Jeff Bowman